

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA/CEN - M.WEISSMAN

L - L.HUMMER (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO GOV PANAMA CANAL

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 123323

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PN, CS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TRANSIT OF VESCO'S YACHT THROUGH CANAL
ZONE

REF: SAN JOSE 2245

1. REFTEL WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATED FYI, REPORTS
LOCATION IN ALMIRANTE OF VESSEL BELIEVED TO BE PATRICIA
III (AKA JOYA OCEANA). OWNERSHIP OF PATRICIA III IS
LINKED TO MULTI-MILLIONAIRE FUGITIVE FINANCIER ROBERT
VESCO. IN 1975 PATRICIA III WAS SPIRITED OUT OF MIAMI
WHERE IT HAD BEEN TIED UP UNDER A COURT ORDER ISSUED
BY JUDGE STEWART OF THE U.S. FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK. JUDGE STEWART'S
ORDER RESPONDS TO A CLAIM BROUGHT BY CREDITORS OR
SHAREHOLDERS OF VESCO'S FORMER COMPANY, INTERNATIONAL
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CONTROLS CORPORATION (ICC). THE ORDER REQUIRES THAT

THE VESSEL BE DETAINED UNTIL OWNERSHIP IS DETERMINED.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PATRICIA III MAY ATTEMPT
PASSAGE THROUGH THE CANAL ON THE WAY TO VESCO'S FARM ON
PACIFIC COAST OF COSTA RICA. FOLLOWING IS DESCRIPTION
OF VESSEL: 137 FEET LONG, ALUMINUM-HULLED, SEVERAL
DECKS, SWIMMING POOL. WHEN LAST SEEN IT WAS PAINTED
WHITE, HAD A GLADES BUGGY AND TWO-MAN MINIATURE SUBMARINE

ON FOREDECK. SALON OFF QUARTER DECK WAS UPHOLSTERED IN
GREEN. VESSEL IS OF PANAMANIAN REGISTRY. STEPS MAY
HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ALTER ITS APPEARANCE (SEE REFTEL)
BUT IT IS REPORTED TO BE THE LARGEST ALUMINUM-HULLED
VESSEL EVER BUILT.

3. COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR ICC, DAVID
BUTOWSKY IS INSTRUCTING HIS PANAMANIAN ATTORNEY TO
PROVIDE THE CLERK OF THE FEDERAL COURT IN THE CANAL
ZONE WITH A COPY OF THE COURT WRIT AGAINST THE PATRICIA
III. IN THE EVENT THAT PASSAGE THROUGH THE CANAL
SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED, THE CANAL ZONE COURT SHOULD BE
ADVISED SO THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN. ROBINSON

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